

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A shock absorbing steering column apparatus arranged such that a steering column is secured and supported by a body-side bracket, a column-side bracket secured to the steering column, and a supporting pin passed through both of these brackets so that the column-side bracket is disconnected at the time of collision to absorb the shock, characterized in that, while a spacer is interposed between the both brackets to be latched by either one of the both brackets, a pin insertion hole through which the supporting pin is passed is formed on said spacer, and a portion to be broken by the shock is formed in the surroundings thereof.

2. (original) A shock absorbing steering apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said body-side bracket comprises a body-side upper bracket in the rear part of the car and a body-side lower bracket in the front part of the car, said column-side bracket comprises a column-side upper bracket in the rear part of the car and a column-side lower bracket in the front part of the car which are respectively corresponding to said body-side upper bracket in the rear part of the car and said body-side lower bracket in the front part of the car, said

spacer is interposed between said body-side lower bracket and said column-side lower bracket, and the main body of said spacer is latched on either said column-side lower bracket or said body-side lower bracket.

3. (currently amended) A shock absorbing steering column apparatus according to Claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein said shock time breaking portion comprises a narrow breaking portion formed on the rear side of the car, of a pin insertion hole.

4. (currently amended) A shock absorbing steering column apparatus according to Claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein said narrow breaking portion is extended to the forwarder part of the car, than the center of said insertion hole.

5. (currently amended) A shock absorbing steering column apparatus according to Claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein said spacer is formed of synthetic resin.

6. (currently amended) A shock absorbing steering column apparatus according to Claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein a plastic deformation member for absorbing a shock energy upon a secondary collision is provided between said body-side bracket and the car body.

7. (new) A shock absorbing steering column apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said shock time breaking portion comprises a narrow breaking portion formed on the rear side of the car, of a pin insertion hole.

8. (new) A shock absorbing steering column apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said narrow breaking portion is extended to the forwarder part of the car, than the center of said insertion hole.

9. (new) A shock absorbing steering column apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said spacer is formed of synthetic resin.

10. (new) A shock absorbing steering column apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein a plastic deformation member for absorbing a shock energy upon a secondary collision is provided between said body-side bracket and the car body.